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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SDNG receives Pershing Trophy

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO – Capt. Tim Schlotterback, Sioux Falls, S.D., accepted the Pershing Trophy on behalf of the 740th Transportation Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, during an awards presentation on Aug. 27 at the National Guard Association of the United States Conference held in Puerto Rico.

“Several Soldiers of the unit served in Iraq and truly understand the importance of marksmanship and want to ensure the younger Soldiers receive the best training possible,” said Schlotterback who is the current commander of the transportation unit. “I am truly honored and privileged to receive this trophy on behalf of the Soldiers of the 740th.”

Schlotterback served for a year in the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a platoon leader for the 727th Transportation Company, and said the award is a true reflection of the dedicated and talented Soldiers of the 740th and the South Dakota Army National Guard.

“It was a great feeling to be able to represent South Dakota at a national conference and receive a unit award of this caliber,” he said.

The first Pershing Trophy was presented by General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I, for team competition at the 1919 Inter-Allied Games in Paris.

Won by the AEF, the original bronze trophy of a World War I Soldier firing a service pistol along with the tradition of honoring excellence in marksmanship was brought back to the United States.

The trophy is now presented as a plaque to the 1st Army unit with the most outstanding marksmanship qualification records during the training year.

Last year, Company A, 153rd Engineer Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, was the recipient of the award for training year 2005.

The 740th is headquartered in Milbank with a detachment in Aberdeen and was the recipient of the award for training year 2006.